

SEAFORTH PAC MEETING

March 14, 2012

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Hark Sandhu, Lynne Vidler, Rhylin Bailie, Jen Mezei, Sophie Cong, Cheryl Tong, Zena Kwan

Others in Attendance: Wendell Hiltz (principal), Pablo Su

Meeting started 7:13 pm

PAC BUSINESS - Rhylin Bailie

- Approval of February's minutes: Zena firsts, Jen seconds

Traffic Safety

- The problems have returned. Idea: at kindergarten orientation educate parents on how to drop off pick up properly. Idea: educate kids at assembly and have them pass it on to their parents. Talk about accidents to motivate.

Technology update:

- Wendell met with Ken and the District tech person that did upgrade this week. They are going to work out details around where we are equipment wise and then provide recommendations. After spring break, Wendell and Ken will meet with Technical Committee (Stan and David).

Donations:

- Need clear plan on what we want to do with the money (clear budget) to help enable the new donation idea and explain it to parents. E.g. in previous years the donations went down and we need X amount to achieve this goal.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Rhylin did email the previous committee and they will help inventory.

Spirit Day Update

- We have more than enough speakers now: Garden Works, woodworking, bridge building, calligraphy, sushi making, wonton making, reptile guys, large variety of speakers to choose from. We have more than enough speakers (~45). Projected re-imburement (speaker expenses) – \$1130 dollars. Speaker's costs are probably high. We've budgeted about 600 dollars for food, may have to trim that. Garden works is charging us about 2 dollars per child. We are only about 180 dollars over budget. Janet is looking at different food options. Feedback on food last year was mediocre. Idea: High school Burnaby mountain caters events like this; **ACTION ITEM: Jen to email Pablo the contact information.** Pablo is sending out a sign up form on March 15th to students. Session Program will be emailed out Friday March 16th. The program list will also be put on the PAC website. There were some concerns about job action and how will it affect the day. Suggestion is to talk to Wendell and Jenny after spring break (after teacher's AGM).

- Sidebar: should talk to Jenny about Carnival, Sports Day and Spirit Day, all in one shot. Parents can express to teachers that we don't want them to do anything they aren't allowed to/comfortable doing. Ask what they can do. Volunteer wise – we have 9 teachers hosting 5 workshops and 6 signed up for supervision duty.
- Hot lunch my tiffin reminder/deadline will be put on school newsletter calendar.

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPAC) REPORT – MaryAnn Giardini & Jen Mezei

- Pink shirt day was discussed.
- New Initiative by Burnaby Teachers Association: parent outreach committee called parents and teachers together: find out from parents what topics they can do presentations on: 1 suggestion for a talk in September is: what is collaboration. Set aside a block of time when teachers get together with students and explain what it means to work together. Try to convey how it can be beneficial for students to participate. Some elementary schools dismiss early and do this.
- District is going to bring in the International Baccalaureate (AP program) – 2 year program – targets grade 11 and 12. Objective of program is to earn the credentials so you can skip first Year University. It involves critical thinking and enquiry based learning.
- Budget: preliminary budget discussed, previously 'held' funds now made available to the district (have hold back at the end of every year). March 28th District will have partner group meeting – District presenting to DPAC what their proposed additions and reductions will be. There was a survey in 2011 of parents about their thoughts on the proposed cuts. The 2012 survey will be coming out in April.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz

- **FSA:** Access to previous years' data may be challenging. (At Feb. meeting parents asked how the current grades 7's are doing compared to when they were grade 4's). **ACTION ITEM: Jen will try to find the historical data and Wendell will try to contact Keith.**
- Academic struggles talk in April – do we have a speaker? Not yet. Wendell has contacted district support teacher: Angela Meredith. She can't commit until after the teacher's AGM.

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT – MaryAnn Giardini

- The teachers really bought into it, and it really meshed well with the street heart classic, the valentines activities.
- Visual displays were great
- Need to provide the students with specific rules for next year, for example no foul language, can't film in bathrooms, submit all videos in certain format, etc.
- Teachers do appreciate what went on – February is still a good month. It worked with Valentines day.

- Would like to expand Kindness Month to a school-wide community building focus. For example, the school picks one topic that everyone will focus on for the year, perhaps homelessness, poverty, environment, hunger, etc. Then each classroom does a large project or a number of smaller projects over the school year focused on making a difference in the community. The PAC could earmark funds to support the classroom projects, if required. But this needs buy-in from the teachers to be successful. PAC can supply the idea and the funds, but cannot direct classroom activities.
- Edmonds started out with student council – if we aren't getting entire school buy in, we could take the smaller step of having student council champion some activities. Good to involve student council, this will help integrate buy in throughout the school
- Objective is to get students to think beyond the walls of this school. Idea is for school to run with idea and PAC to step back a little. Need to address this initiative in the budget.
- Teachers have requested more dialogue before school calendar is set to ensure PAC is not organizing too many activities in one year. Don't want to interfere with teaching time.

CARNIVAL COMMITTEE UPDATE – Zena Kwan

- Committee has met twice, third meeting March 15. Newsletters will be coming out after spring break. Need to meet with Wendell to confirm who teacher contacts are (i.e. Mr. Lapthorne's students' role). Need Belanger's contact for baskets. Not expecting teachers to volunteer everything. Planning such that parents do everything, dropping off boxes for baskets, etc. Committee has calendars ready; the package is ready to go out in April. Poster contest for grade 6 and 7's first. Then a save the date. Newsletters will go to Wendell and Rhylin first. Can put on website too. Forms need handwritten responses: cakes, class baskets, passports. Rhylin asks Zena to collect all the forms and procedures so that someone that comes after her, pass onto secretary at end of year to archive. Map of layout given to Wendell- yellow is the rooms they need. Can we try to order online for this event through MyTiffin? There is a Paypal fee to consider. This could help further justify the purchase of the software. Could help eliminate any lost orders. Don't have to purchase online. Presales online is one idea.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Sophie Cong & Rema Sanghera

-See detailed report (PDF file).

-ACTION ITEM: could Sophie and/or Rema please work out what we expect to NOT be spent by the end of the year i.e. estimate this years' surplus. We would like a sense of surplus for end of 2012. Need to plan budget for end of year, Wendell to talk to Jenny re: teacher wish list.

SURLUS DISCUSSION:

-Spending on IT – scenario A, B, C will be created

-Other Ideas: high tech, science lab, aquarium lab, wild critters, paper Mache, fitness, marshal arts for 2012/2013. **ACTION ITEM:** ask Cheryl if she could let us know the price of each? Could all classes participate?

NEW BUSINESS

-Sexual education speaker: Saleema Noon Suggestion to try new speaker as she delivers the exact same material year after year. **ACTION ITEM: Jen to look into some of the existing alternatives.**

Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm